Demand and supply of Bitumen to North-Eastern States by IOC

864. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of demand and supply of quality bitumen to North-Eastern States for construction of roads by IOC during last three years indicating quantities demanded, date and amount paid against quantities and date of actual supply, quantity yet to be despatched;

(b) the reasons for very dismal performance of IOC in supplying bitumen contributing towards further backwardness of NER;

(c) whether any accountability fixed on such negligence and any strategy finalised to streamline the procedure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) The amount of Bitumen supplied by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to North-Eastern States, during the last three years is given in Statement (*See* below).

There has been some shortfall in supplying of Bitumen in North-Eastern sector due to restricted availability of wagons by railways. IOC has already taken up the matter with Railways for making the rail wagons available on priority. Further in order to augment the supply of bitumen, IOC has maximised drum filling at Guwahati, Haldia and Uluberia and adequate stocks are normally maintained to meet the demand.

Statement

(Figures in Thousand Metric Tonnes)

Year	Quantity Supplied	Balance Order Quantity
1997-78	37.66	3,97
1998-99	28.93	6.55
1999-2000	37.16	5.38

Expected New Refineries in Public Sector

865. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new refineries are expected to go up in the public sector in the next seven years;

(b) the names of all such refineries and the capacities and the public sector units sponsoring them;

(c) whether Government have devised a way to utilise the existing over-capacity in the oil refining sector in India;

(d) if so, the details of plans in this regard;

(e) whether any outside expertise has been taken to study on how to cope with the immense new capacity which is expected; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) refinery of 9 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) capacity at Paradip in Orissa, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) refinery of 9 MMTPA capacity at Bhatinda in Punjab and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) refinery of 6 MMTPA refinery at Bina in Madhya Pradesh are expected to come up in the near future. These refineries are to be set up through joint ventures of the above public sector companies.

(c) to (f) Refining Sector has been delicensed. Therefore, capacity utilization of the refineries arising out of capacity additions is under the perview of the respective oil companies including any implications on profitability arising out of capacity additions/utilisations.

Proposal to reduce the excise duty on Petroleum Products

†366. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sent a proposal to the Ministry of Finance to reduce the exise duty on petroleum products upto 50 per cent by making comprehensive change in the present structure of excise duty on petroleum;

(b) if so, when the said proposal was sent and the reasons for sending this proposal;

(c) whether his Ministry has received any response in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.